

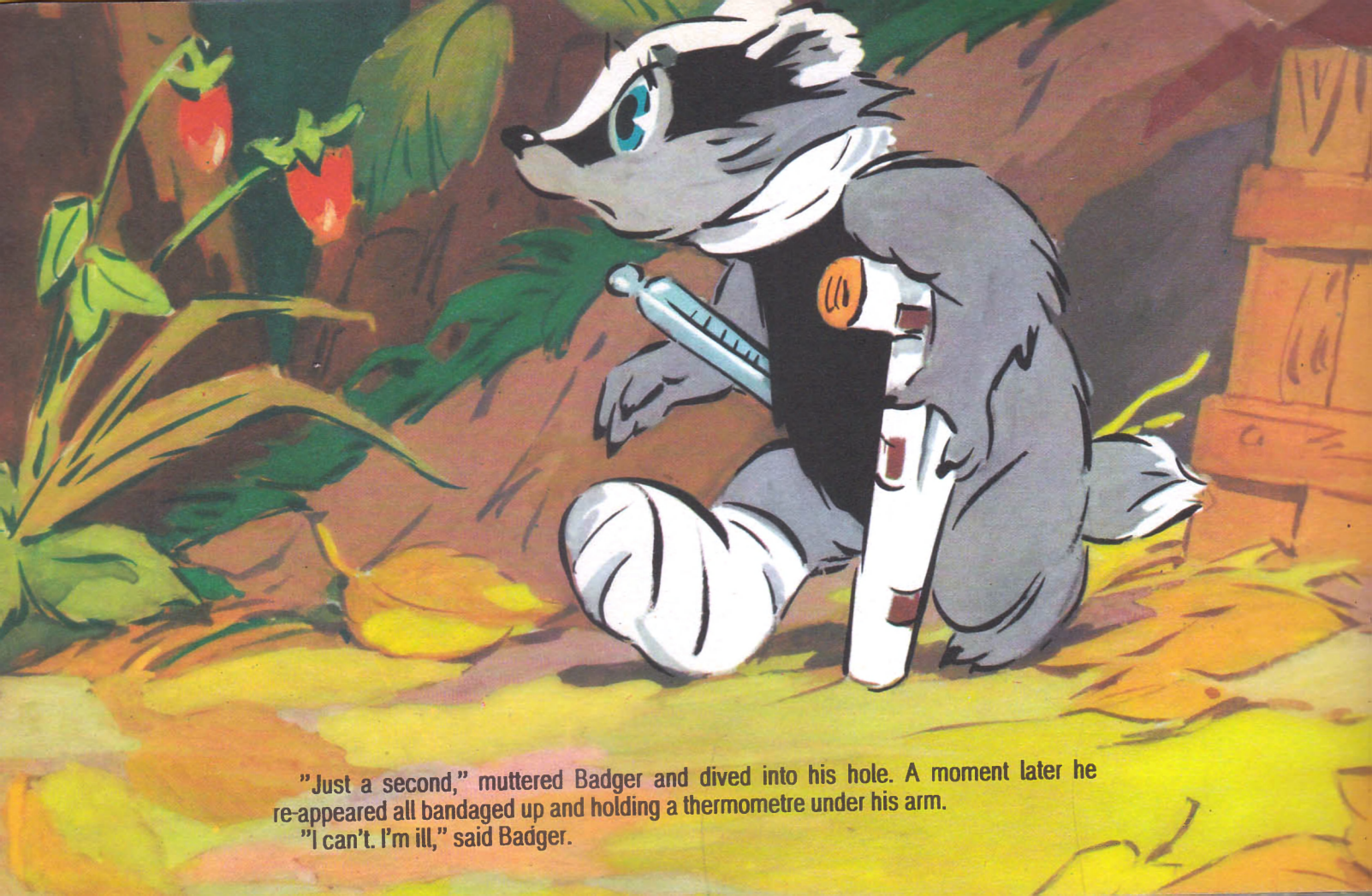


# BUNNY IN TROUBLE



One day Squirrel came running to Badger and cried:  
"He's in trouble!"  
"Who is?" Badger got scared.  
"Bunny. I saw Bear lead him into his den. I saw it with my own eyes. Let's go and  
rescue him. Come on!"





"Just a second," muttered Badger and dived into his hole. A moment later he re-appeared all bandaged up and holding a thermometer under his arm.

"I can't. I'm ill," said Badger.





"Chicken!" Squirrel got angry. "I'll manage without you."  
And she was about to leave when Badger cried out: "Well, you go to Bear's and what'll you tell him?"  
"Shame on you, how dare you hurt little ones – that's what!"  
"Bear will just smack you one and that's that." Badger promised.





Squirrel did not say anything to that, she just gave him such a look that Badger felt ashamed. He took off his bandages, kicked away his crutches and ran after Squirrel.  
"OK, I'm coming with you."







Squirrel and Badger were walking past the river where Beaver sat fishing.

"Hey, Beaver!" called Squirrel. "Come with us to rescue Bunny."

"Who from?" asked Beaver.

"From Bear," explained Badger in a trembling voice.

"Well. . .," hesitated Beaver. "Perhaps Bunny was himself to blame, perhaps he started it first."

"Started what?" Squirrel was amazed.

"Well, anything. . ." muttered Beaver who hated quarrelling with Bear.

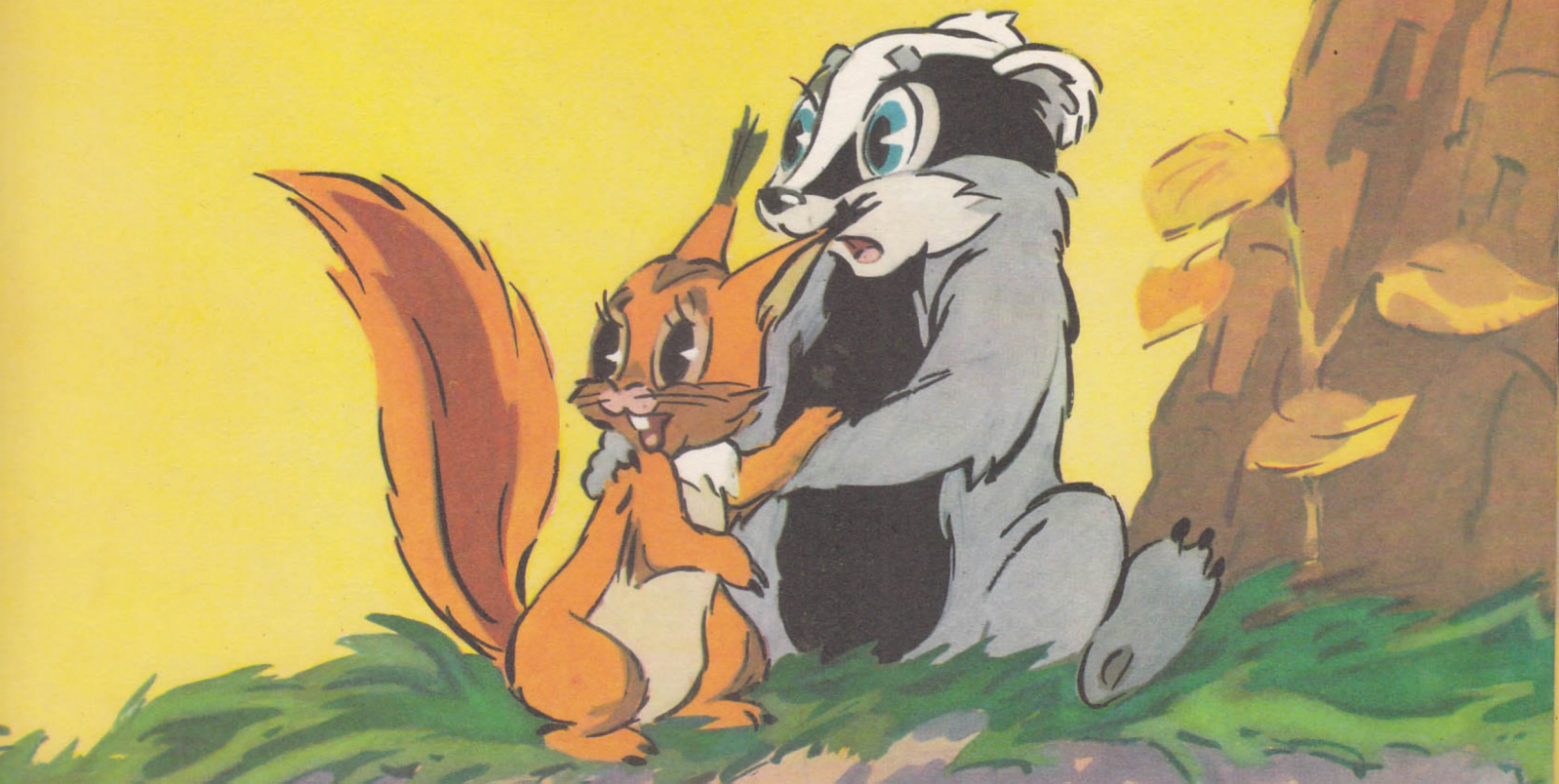








Suddenly, a huge fish jumped out of the river and pulled Beaver into the water.  
"Help! Help!" cried Beaver clinging to the bank.  
The fish was so big and frightening that it could easily have swallowed  
Beaver together with the bait.







Squirrel rushed to Beaver's rescue and so did Badger. Together they saved Beaver from the Fish.





"See, this fish nearly got me," Beaver said.  
"I think you were the first to catch it," chuckled Squirrel.  
"Well, will you go with us to rescue Bunny?"  
"Sure," Beaver answered.  
So now there were the three of them.





"Hey, where are you going?" Mousie stopped the friends.

"We're going to hunt Bear," Badger answered.

"To rescue Bunny," added Beaver.

"You can't go with us. You're still too small," Squirrel waved Mousie away.

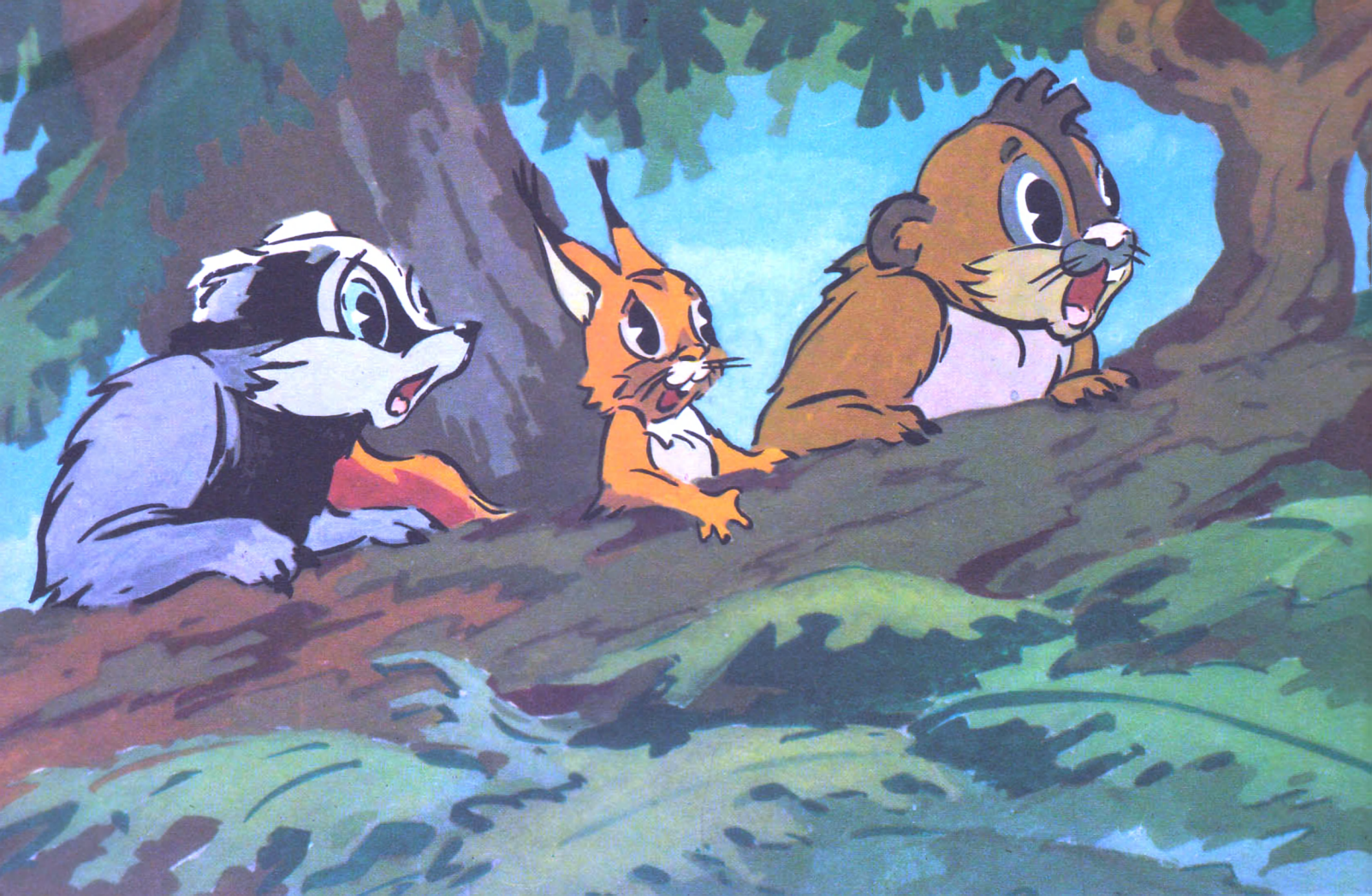




"Who's small? I'm small?" Mousie protested.  
But Squirrel, Beaver and Badger wouldn't listen to him. They were on their way  
already.

"Alright! I'll rescue Bunny myself, without you. Alone!"









It was already evening when Squirrel, Beaver and Badger reached Bear's den. It grew dark. The wind started. There were huge pine-trees around Bear's hut. They moved their branches like big paws.

The friends crawled towards the lighted window. Against the curtain they saw Bear holding someone who had long ears.

"That's Bunny he's holding," whispered Beaver in horror. "He's going to eat him now."





The friends rushed to the window.

"Let go of Bunny!" they cried.

Both Bear and Bunny were highly astonished. They were about to have a bit of supper.

"Hallo, kiddoes!" Bear was genuinely happy to see them.

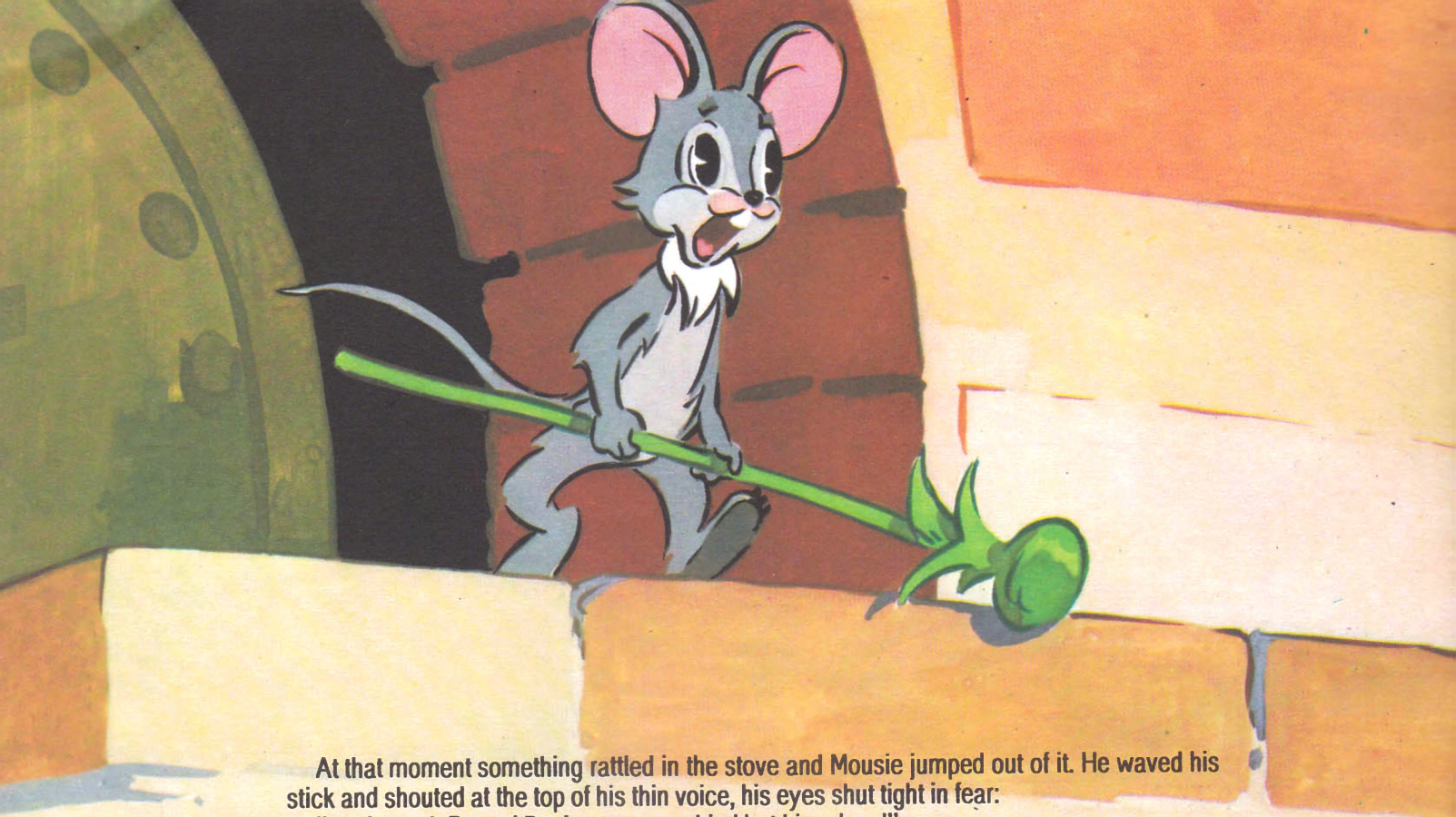
"How nice of you to drop in. We were just going to have tea."

"With honey," Bunny added.









At that moment something rattled in the stove and Mousie jumped out of it. He waved his stick and shouted at the top of his thin voice, his eyes shut tight in fear:

"Don't touch Bunny! Don't come near him! Let him alone!"

When he opened his eyes he saw everyone laughing and he asked:

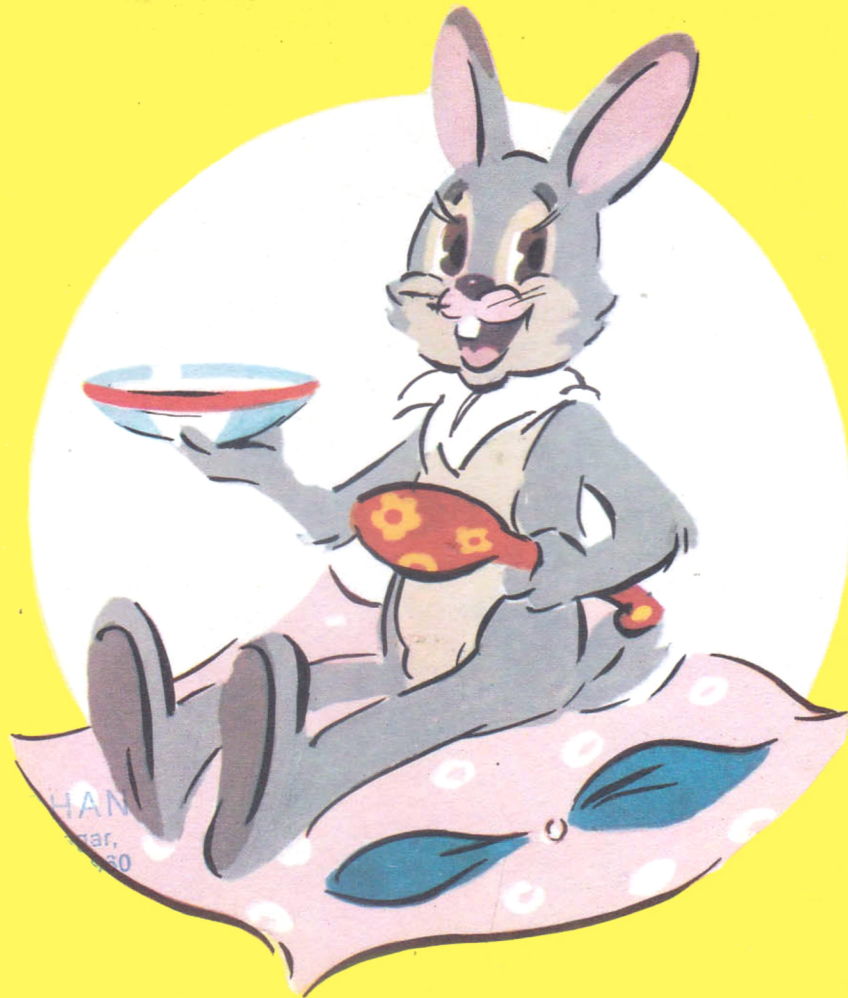
"What's going on?"





Later after they had sorted it all out, they sat down at the table and had some tea. With honey. They sat drinking tea and telling Bunny how they were going to rescue him. Bunny split his sides laughing, so that he nearly fell off his chair. And Bear really did fall off his chair. Twice.





**ОН ПОПАЛСЯ**

**На английском языке**

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